

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY AND
THE REPUBLIC OF BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I commend to my colleagues the following report on my trip to Bosnia and Herzegovina from March 6-8. At your request, I had the honor of leading a delegation of ten Members on an inspection trip to the Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, from March 6-8. You asked us to review the current military operations and international as-

sistance efforts involving Bosnia and the other former Yugoslav republics.

We had an informative and productive trip, including meetings with President Bjilana Plavsic of the Republika Srpska (the Bosnian Serb Republic); the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe; the Commander of NATO Stabilization Forces in Bosnia; other senior U.S. military and diplomatic personnel; U.S. troops in the field; senior military commanders from other nations participating in the Stabilization Force; and representatives of a variety of international assistance programs. On behalf of the other Members of the delegation, I am forwarding with this letter a detailed report which summarizes our activities and observations.

Of course, I am available to discuss this trip as well as the significant policy questions as-

sociated with our involvement in Bosnia should you find it useful. In the meantime, I want to thank you again for providing this opportunity to me and our colleagues who made this trip.

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TRIP REPORT
MARCH 5-9, 1998

Members: Representatives C.W. Bill Young, Tom Sawyer, Neil Abercrombie, Henry Bonilla, Tillie Fowler, Eddie Bernice Johnson, David Minge, Charles Bass, George Nethercutt, Allan Boyd.

Purpose: At the request of the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House, the delegation was asked to inspect and review the current deployment of U.S. and NATO forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina and the status of U.S. and international civic and economic recovery efforts.

Itinerary: As shown below.

Date	Places visited	Officials met
March 5	Depart Washington, D.C.	N/A
March 6	Budapest, Hungary	Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy; Defense Attache, U.S. Embassy; Liaison Officer to U.S. Embassy, U.S. Stabilization Force (SFOR)
March 7	Sarajevo, Bosnia	Supreme Allied Commander, NATO; Commander, U.S. Army in Europe and Stabilization Force (SFOR); U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina; Deputy Commissioner, United Nations; High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR)
March 8	Banja Luka, Bosnia Tuzla, Bosnia Camp McGovern, Bosnia	President of the Republika Srpska Commander, U.S. Task Force Eagle Personnel of the U.S. 1st Armored Division and 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment assigned to SFOR
March 9	Brcko, Bosnia Return Washington, D.C.	Host-nation city and civic group officials; officials of the Office of the High Representative for Brcko; officials of the United Nations International Police Task Force (IPTF)

Friday, March 6: Upon its arrival in Budapest, Hungary, the delegation met with U.S. Embassy and U.S. military personnel regarding the political, economic, and military outlook for Hungary; NATO expansion (Hungary is one of the three proposed new member nations); and Hungary-based operations associated with the NATO-led Stabilization Force for Bosnia.

Since turning to democracy in 1989, Hungary has pursued domestic and foreign policies emphasizing the establishment of democratic institutions and free market practices, and integration into Western political, economic and security institutions. There have been two national-level democratic elections since 1990 with a third scheduled for this summer. Hungary has encouraged outside investment and is the largest recipient of foreign investment in Eastern Europe, including more than \$6 billion from the United States. Hungary has joined the OECD, is slated to formally enter NATO in 1999, and is pressing for membership in the European Economic Community.

The prospect of joining NATO enjoys broad political support in Hungary, although it has not become a prominent issue domestically. Embassy officials believe Hungary fully recognizes its obligations upon joining NATO and note that the government has committed to gradual increases in defense spending which, in several years, will then be in line with the NATO average (as expressed as a percentage of annual government spending).

Since 1989 Hungary has cut its armed forces by two-thirds in size, and its intent is to streamline and modernize that force in order to meet NATO needs, with an imme-

diate goal of learning how to "think, speak, and act NATO." To that end many senior Hungarian military officials have or are planning to attend U.S. military war colleges. Both the Hungarian government and U.S. officials believe this transition to NATO's way of doing business must occur prior to any major equipment modernization effort.

In late 1995 Hungary responded to NATO requests and permitted use of its airbase at Tazsar as the major logistics transshipment point for U.S. and other NATO forces involved in the initial deployment of the Implementation Force (IFOR) to Bosnia. While total personnel and activities at Tazsar have dropped with the completion of the initial Bosnia deployment and stabilization of operations, NATO still maintains over 2100 personnel (military and civilian) there, under command of an American major general, as part of the overall Stabilization Force (SFOR). Tazsar is the last waystation in, and first waystation out, for U.S. forces involved in operations in Bosnia or Croatia.

Saturday, March 7: The delegation traveled to Bosnia with the first stop in Sarajevo.

The delegation first met at NATO SFOR Headquarters with General Wesley Clark, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe; General Eric Shinseki, Commander, U.S. Army Europe and Commander, SFOR; and U.S. Ambassador Rich Kauzlarich. General Clark gave a briefing summarizing the NATO mission following the Dayton Peace Agreement, with particular emphasis on SFOR's continued success in stabilizing the overall security situation, the greater pace of civic and political progress in the past year, and recent efforts to marginalize Serb hardliners.

In questions and answers with delegation members, other key points made by General Clark, General Shinseki and Ambassador Kauzlarich included:

1. While still lagging, there is growing progress on the civilian side of the ledger in Bosnia:

Joint governing institutions are beginning to function;

The new Serb government in the Republika Srpska ("RS") is more committed to Dayton implementation and has moved to reduce to the influence of Serb hardliners (especially the so-called "Pale faction");

The hardline Serb party's representation in the RS parliament dropped from 54 percent to 28 percent in the September 1997 elections;

There has been steady progress in returns of refugees and resettlement of displaced persons;

The media is being restructured under Western supervision and is no longer an anti-SFOR propaganda outlet;

Freedom of movement within Bosnia is returning with agreements reached on a common license plate and on passports;

More indicted war criminals have either been seized or voluntarily turned themselves in;

The Bosnian factions and the International Police Training Foundation (IPTF) have reached agreement on a plan for police restructuring which is now underway throughout most regions of the country.

In summary, Bosnian society is beginning to heal itself. Among the general populace, there is a growing mindset that people are building towards their futures, and not for war. Elections are shifting power from those

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

groups who started the war and who impede Dayton implementation. Progress is being made in establishing freedom of movement, refugee returns to contentious areas such as Brcko are picking up, and initial efforts to reform/retrain police are promising. Yet in all these areas much more remains to be done.

2. General Clark, General Shinseki, and Ambassador Kauzlarich all stated SFOR must stay in Bosnia beyond the previously-announced June 1998 withdrawal date. Recent gains, while positive, are tenuous and will not hold absent continued aggressive efforts to implement the Dayton agreement with SFOR as the guarantor of a peaceful environment.

Current SFOR force levels (33,000 total, 8,500 U.S.) will be maintained through the national elections scheduled for September 1998. If successful, shortly thereafter U.S. forces could be reduced by 20 percent, to 6,900. (There was no discussion regarding contemplated changes in the number of non-U.S. forces.)

General Clark suggested that with sufficient progress in improving the local policing function, SFOR could be downsized even further. There will be six-month reviews to consider additional SFOR downsizing/restructuring. However, non-U.S. financial and personnel support for the International Police Task Force (IPTF), which is responsible for restructuring and retraining local police, remains inadequate.

3. The delegation was advised to be cautiously optimistic regarding recent political shifts in the Republika Srpska, particularly steps taken by President Plavsic and newly-elected Prime Minister Dodik. It is unclear whether they have had a real change of heart regarding reforms or whether these moves are tactical in nature. Nonetheless, their ability to promote change is circumscribed given their current narrow political margin, continued recalcitrance on the part of Serb hardliners, and the sheer weight of problems confronting the RS (the sorry state of the economy, the lack of knowledge, institutions, and outside investment needed to establish a more viable commercial sector, and the continued pervasiveness of corruption, black markets, and bribery.)

4. When asked, both General Clark and General Shinseki declined to estimate how long the presence of U.S. forces would be required, saying it is impossible to predict.

At one point General Clark stated, somewhat off-handedly, "I don't see this as a 5-10 year problem . . . SFOR is getting a little smaller, somewhat less expensive . . . If [this September's] elections are successful, we should be able to get even smaller."

At another juncture, General Clark said that the U.S. component of SFOR is "now down to the equivalent of three combat battalions . . . it is not that much of a burden anymore . . . we can meet our military requirements elsewhere." He conceded that in the event of a major conflict elsewhere that the U.S. role in SFOR would need to be revisited.

General Clark also cited the need for the just proposed emergency supplemental for Bosnia, totaling \$489 million. He said these costs could not be absorbed and that they couldn't be offset from within existing Department of Defense funds.

5. All three officials pointed to economic reconstruction as an essential element of any long-term strategy. Both General Shinseki and Ambassador Kauzlarich indicated the lack of jobs was the biggest impediment to the successful return of dis-

placed persons and refugees. They added that refugee returns also require local security, a function now performed by SFOR and one which eventually must be assumed by the restructured police forces.

6. At various points in the discussion, several members inquired as to the national interests being served by the U.S. deployment. General Clark responded by reviewing Bosnia's strategic location and problems posed for Europe by the Bosnian war, as well as the fissures which were opening up within NATO during the 1993-1995 timeframe when UNPROFOR was the international presence in Bosnia. General Clark portrayed NATO as being on the brink of disintegration over disagreements over what to do about Bosnia. The French and British were on the verge of withdrawing their forces from UNPROFOR, until the U.S. stepped forward in 1995 with its bombing campaign against the Serbs and then sponsorship of the Dayton negotiations. General Clark also said now that the U.S. is in Bosnia, as part of NATO, a precipitous American withdrawal would call into question U.S. credibility and ability to live up to its commitments. In addition, at one point he said "We can't be successful in NATO if we aren't successful in Bosnia."

Following this meeting, the delegation moved to the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo and met with U.S. Ambassador Kauzlarich and other State Department officials. Joining this meeting in progress was American Jacques Klein, the Deputy High Commissioner of the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR).

Ambassador Kauzlarich reviewed the embassy's various missions, which include:

Facilitation of refugee return process at a workable pace, and in a fashion which promotes reintegration of ethnic groups;

Working with the Federation and the RS to restructure their law enforcement institutions, including police restructuring and orientation towards demonstrative policing, and transformation of the judicial system;

Advancement of democracy, by working towards free and fair elections and implementation of the results, and also pressing for a free and independent media;

Promotion of reconstruction, by helping to facilitate investment, assisting the governments in creating a legal framework for a viable national economy, and also by promoting American products as well as open markets to ensure U.S. companies market access;

And strengthening of peace and stability, by assisting Federation military integration (former Muslim and Croat armies), support for the "Train and Equip" program, and by facilitating the work of the International War Crimes Tribunal.

The Ambassador reviewed the "train and equip" program with the delegation and offered his opinion that besides working to redress the Muslim/Croat military disadvantage vis-a-vis the Serbs, it had important side benefits. These include helping keep out Iran and other interests who had supported the Muslims or Croats during the war. It also provides a forum whereby the Muslims and Croats are learning to work together, not only at the military level but also at the political level which is essential if the Federation government is to become a success.

The delegation then had the opportunity to question both the Ambassador and Jacques Klein. In response to queries, Mr. Klein explained the goal of being able to gradually withdraw U.S. forces by disengaging them from many functions over time as civilian institutions develop or are reestablished.

Mr. Klein then expressed his view as to some of the larger geopolitical issues involved in Bosnia. Simply stated, he said, Europe does not want a Muslim-dominated state in the region and a viable Serbia and Croatia are viewed as needed to prevent that from happening.

He then drew attention to the large Yugoslav refugee population in Germany, whose eventual return is needed because they will bring money, skills, and some measure of stability back to the region.

Mr. Klein remarked upon the Europeans' initial response to crises which is always to deny they need U.S. leadership. But Bosnia has only provided the most recent example (over the period of 1991-1995, including the failure of UNPROFOR) of Europe's need for American leadership and capabilities, a point most Europeans will now concede.

Finally, on the matter of war criminals, Mr. Klein suggested they are nothing but thugs. A pro-active, "get-in-their-face" policy is needed and will work because when confronted with a professional military, they will always back down.

The delegation then traveled to Banja Luka in the Republika Srpska, where it met with Bjilana Plavsic, the President of the Republika Srpska.

President Plavsic began with an opening statement and then responded to questions from members of the delegation. In her opening statement, the President cited her priorities as being moving towards democratic procedures and also improving the economy. She stated ordinarily economic improvement would be the top priority but that without greater democracy, they couldn't fully realize the necessary economic improvements. She said the previous 50 years (under Communist rule) had left the economy in quite a mess. The President also stressed the need for the Ministry of the Interior and the justice system to work, saying "there must be a framework for a legal economy."

She finished by proclaiming "I as President must have the power to replace people [who resist change], and I will do so."

In response to questions from the delegation, President Plavsic addressed a number of issues including:

The role of SFOR and its importance: "SFOR is keeping the peace here. No amount of money is worth peace. If someone started the war there would be no telling what the effects would be . . . They are doing a very nice job, a noble job. We couldn't even consider economic recovery without the presence of foreign armies."

When she believes the U.S. and SFOR can withdraw: "I will tell you what I told President Clinton [when he visited Bosnia in December 1997]: 'we have started in a good way, but we need your patience' . . . Please help us, it won't last long. When we are offered a chance, the people will see this and grab for it. Remember, Dayton is a creation of the U.S., it is well balanced. Please support what you created . . . Much progress can be lost with impatience."

On prospects for continued peace: "Problems must be solved by democratic means. Last June [when hardline Serb elements were on the verge of staging a coup until SFOR intervened] was difficult. Now we have elections, and for the first time in decades people understand they do not have to go to war."

Regarding the refugee problem: "The Republika Srpska has 1.2 million people, and 400,000 of those are refugees . . . they must have homes, they must find work. With our new government we can start new industrial and economic processes."

On war criminals: "We understand the obligations of Dayton. This is a very sensitive and complex issue. But Dayton isn't just a document, we must accept it. . . . You must realize this is difficult for Serbs to do to Serbs. Now within the last 20 days, four men have [voluntarily] surrendered to the Hague. There will be people who recognize the problems of living a life under indictment, and I expect we will see more in the next phase. This is the best way, for Prime Minister Dodik and myself—it is also better for SFOR troops."

Regarding the upcoming March 15th arbitration decision for Brcko (an unsolicited comment): "March 15th is Brcko. This could make everything harder, it could be a destroyer. It will only help the hardliners."

The role Radovan Karadzic is now playing and whether he remains an obstacle: "There have been great improvements in the last 3, 4 months. There are new institutions in the Republika Srpska responsible for policy. He did have influence before, now he does not. His influence is getting smaller and smaller. People just want to live their lives, it's not right that we should accommodate just one person. I have not had contacts with him in a long time."

On the ethnic violence in the Serbian province of Kosovo: "My opinion is not an official one. I am familiar with the Balkans and Kosovo, it is in every Serb's heart. Tito made many mistakes. . . . he forced Serbs out of Kosovo and invited Albanians in. . . . Kosovo dates back to medieval times, there are many Serb monasteries. . . . Kosovo belongs to Serbia. . . . Milosevic should know the police cannot solve this problem over the long haul, this is another example of his bad policies. . . . Kosovo, there must be civil rights for all. . . . if we do some thing special for one group [evidently referring to Albanian demands for autonomy], it is wrong."

When asked if whether she sees a future for multi-ethnic relationships in the RS, in the Federation, in Croatia: "This is a priority. . . . this must be achieved, but certain things must be a pre-condition. . . . In 1945, the Communists rose, and the people were not allowed to say 'I am a Serb, I am Croatian, I am a Muslim.' For 50 years everything we accumulated was very orthodox. Then Serbs, Muslims, Croats started asking questions about who you are. This is something that was not allowed in the United States. People wanted to say who and what they are, and this is what started the war. The Republika Srpska started with this, what is wrong with people stating who we are and what we are."

Sunday, March 8: The delegation first traveled to Tuzla, Bosnia.

Upon arrival in Tuzla, the delegation proceeded to Headquarters Task Force Eagle, the headquarters for both U.S. forces deployed in Bosnia and for the overall operations in the SFOR zone "MND-North" (Multi-National Division North). The delegation first met with Major General Larry Ellis, Commanding General, 1st Armored Division, who commands the multinational forces in MND-North.

General Ellis and his HQ staff briefed the delegation and answered questions on current operations in MND-North as well as particular issues of concern. Among the points covered:

MND-North is currently comprised of 13,500 troops, made up of U.S. troops drawn largely from the 1st Armored Division (7,950 troops), a Nordic-Polish brigade (comprised of 2,800 troops from the Baltic States, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Poland), a Russian brigade (1,425), and a Turkish brigade.

The various armed factions within MND-North have complied with the provisions of the Dayton Accord and the zone has been "quiet".

34 of the 40 municipalities within MND-North which held elections in September 1997 have had their results certified by the OSCE. There are several instances where the elections resulted in governments which do not reflect the ethnicity of the local population, a result due to the use of absentee balloting whereby displaced people were permitted to cast votes in their former locales.

The most sensitive area in the region (if not all of Bosnia) remains Brcko, which due to its location (it connects the western half of the RS to the eastern half) and the results of the war is perhaps the most valuable and contested territory in Bosnia. Its pre-war population was 56 percent Muslim and 20 percent Serb; it now is over 90 percent Serb.

The Dayton Accord left the fate of Brcko to international arbitration. In March 1996 the arbitrator extended the date for a final determination to March 15, 1998.¹ In recent months over 700 displaced Muslim families have returned to Brcko and efforts to restructure local institutions, such as a police force, along multi-ethnic lines have shown progress.

SFOR retains custody of three media broadcast towers which were seized from Serb control last fall, which had served as active anti-SFOR outlets. SFOR is working with civil authorities to develop an open and free media system.

When queried as to U.S. forces' direct participation in activities such as elections/election support, location of mass graves, and law enforcement, General Ellis stated his forces' role was only incidental, with the primary task the provision of security in the area of operations.

General Ellis reviewed how troops inbound to Bosnia receive tailored training for the unique environment prior to deploying, including a full mission rehearsal. Compared to combat training, the skills required are less demanding but the difficult part is integrating and coordinating tasks which have a significant "non-combat" component, such as civic affairs.

Regarding mines, there are over 128,000 remaining in MND-North, with approximately 1,000 being cleared each month. U.S. forces participation in this is restricted to direct mineclearing only when needed to support U.S. operations, and a supervisory/training role for the former Bosnian armed forces.

The delegation then flew to Brcko, Bosnia, where after a visual inspection of the city by helicopter it moved to Camp McGovern, a U.S. base camp just outside Brcko.

While enroute to Camp McGovern, there were several observations:

A coal-fired power plant was observed northeast of Tuzla; according to major General Ellis, it is currently operating at only 20 percent of capacity due to lack of spare parts. Efforts are being made to correct this problem with the plant to be brought to 80-90 percent capacity in several months.

A large open-air market, the "Arizona Market" was observed, with hundreds of cars enroute backing up local traffic for miles. General Ellis noted this market, and another ("Virginia Market") were stood up last year and have enjoyed a significant business. The markets are multi-ethnic and run by local entrepreneurs. The markets have to some de-

gree exasperated local authorities who, due to the lack of government control, have been unable to share in the proceeds.

Upon overflying Brcko, the destruction of housing in the outskirts of the city was evident. Some reconstruction was seen with many houses having new roofs, which General Ellis stated had mostly occurred within the past six months.

The bridge spanning the Sava River from Brcko to Croatia was observed, with it having been repaired last fall through insertion of a new span in mid-section. General Ellis noted that rail and barge traffic through the region had also recently resumed.

General Ellis also made some personal observations while enroute to Brcko:

All three parties (Serb, Muslim, and Croat) want SFOR to stay. At this stage, without SFOR fighting would eventually start up again.

Regarding war criminals, he doesn't disagree with the need to see them turned in or apprehended, but that this effort needs to go beyond just Serbs and the Republika Srpska.

The delegation then inspected Camp McGovern and also had the opportunity to eat lunch with the troops. Among the observations at this location:

Camp McGovern is located on the outskirts of Brcko, and in fact sits astride the Dayton-imposed military zone of separation.

Nearly 800 troops are currently deployed there. Forces are primarily from the 2nd Armored Cavalry Division, from Fort Polk, Louisiana, with some armored support from the 1st Armored Division which is home-stationed in Germany. Units from Fort Polk, were deployed last August, as part of a scheduled rotation, just before the September 1997 elections.

Efforts are being made to adhere to a six-month tour length for forces sent to Bosnia. This contrasts with a one-year duration at the start of the mission in 1995-1996.

The base camp features a small shopping area with a PX, a weight room, and a learning center with classes offered either through correspondence or instruction on-site by U.S. nationals on contract to the Army.

Nonetheless, conditions at Camp McGovern are austere, with all forces billeted in tents with wooden floors and a nominal "tent complement" of 8 soldiers per tent. However, on occasions of troop rotation or reinforcement this has been upped to as many as 12 per tent. Officers escorting the delegation indicated there has been some discussion about expanding the perimeter of Camp McGovern (a complicated endeavor given the proximity of minefields) in order to slightly increase the potential number of troops who can be stationed there, solely as a precautionary measure depending on future reaction to the Brcko arbitration decision.

Mail service has been good. When possible soldiers are offered access to computers for e-mail and there are opportunities for phone calls out of country.

In random conversations with troops, the delegation found that morale is generally good. There was concern voiced by individual service members about whether "the folks back home" understood what they were doing in Bosnia, and also about the effects of repeated deployments on individual family situations.

Members who met with Reservists heard complaints about the administration of the Reserve Mobilization Income Insurance program [which, due to initially faulty actuarial calculations at the Pentagon, continues to require funding in excess of previously appropriated amounts despite the infusion of over \$70 million over the past two years].

¹On March 15, 1998, the international arbitrator for Brcko, Mr. Roberts Owen, announced he was once again delaying a decision on the territorial status of Brcko, until 1999.

Some soldiers from the 1st Armored Division are on their second deployment to Bosnia (having been sent in the initial movement of U.S. forces during late 1995-early 1996 as part of IFOR, the "Implementation Force"). These who had served at Camp McGovern on their first tour said there had been considerable improvement in and around Brcko, with the most noticeable change being the return of and visibility of children.

These soldiers observed that recent progress in returning refugees to Brcko is due to careful planning and oversight by the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). In an effort to restore confidence and build trust, returns to date have been focused on those areas which are "less difficult" and have involved only families who can clearly demonstrate they once lived in a particular area or dwelling.

Continuing, these soldiers said unemployment was a huge problem, with the population subsisting largely on international assistance, black market activities, and remittances from displaced persons who had moved abroad such as to Germany.

The soldiers' personal view was that the local population was genuinely tired of the war and its aftermath and wanted to get on with their lives.

The delegation then traveled to a resettlement camp on the outskirts of Brcko (Stari Rasadnik) where it was joined by Ambassador Kauzlarich and met with the group of 12 local citizens.

The local group was divided equally between Muslims and Serbs, including the Muslim "mayor" of Stari Rasadnik and six women from a local women's group. In questions and answers with the delegation several points rapidly became apparent:

The group was genuinely thankful for the role being played for SFOR with many expressing the opinion that conditions would rapidly deteriorate should SFOR leave in the near future;

Many of the group had been forced to move to many places through the duration of the war. The biggest impediment to returns and the reuniting of families is the absence of jobs. There had been noticeable improvement in recent months in terms of greater freedom of movement throughout Bosnia;

The mayor portrayed his relations with the Serbs as one of cooperation in trying to resettle the area;

Midway through the discussion, there were several acrimonious exchanges between members of the group at various points, prompted by charges that one side or the other (Serb or Muslim) was responsible for the war. One individual stated "we cannot forget what one side did to the other." This was met by another's response that "we were the ones who were thrown out, that suffered atrocities, but I have returned home. I am no war criminal."

When asked what the reaction would be should the arbitration decision give control to Brcko to the Serbs, one person responded "We can live side-by-side . . . but not together."

The delegation then proceeded to a brief tour of Brcko by bus, before proceeding to a meeting with representatives of the Office of the High Representative for Brcko (OHR) and the International Police Task Force (IPTF).

While on the tour of Brcko, the delegation briefly crossed over the now-repaired bridge over the Sava River into Croatia. SFOR escorts made several comments while on the tour including:

In downtown Brcko, there was a smattering of political posters featuring President Plavsic and Prime Minister Dodik of the RS. It was explained that several months prior, there were many posters featuring Radovan Karadzic. By all appearances these had been removed;

Within Brcko, it was claimed there are little or no problems with freedom of movement for any of the three formerly warring factions;

The local schools are now open, with both classes and faculties represented on a multi-ethnic basis. This is said to have created no problems.

The delegation then met with representatives of the OHR and the IPTF.

According to Mr. Ian McCloud, Deputy Commissioner of OHR:

The Office of the High Representative for Brcko was expanded and given greater authority in early 1997 after the arbitrator for Brcko, Mr. Roberts Owen, decided to delay his decision until March 1998. OHR was charged with working actively in the Brcko area to return refugees and displaced persons, to achieve a greater freedom of movement (in conjunction with the IPTF), to aid in ensuring democratic processes were established and respected, and to help with economic revitalization. Regarding each of these areas:

Since early 1997, OHR has approved over 2600 homesteads for return to displaced persons, with 755 families having actually returned and taken occupancy.

Freedom of movement within Brcko is pretty well established, and over 400 vehicles daily transit the bridge from Brcko to Croatia. However, Serbs are still not allowed by Croatia to pass over the bridge into Croatia.

Mr. McCloud had an upbeat assessment regarding the implementation of the local elections, saying that the re-establishment of multi-ethnic institutions is starting to "take" and is making progress.

Regarding the local economy, Mr. McCloud indicated this was a major challenge as OHR believes there needs to be the creation of 28,000 industrial and supporting jobs in the community to get Brcko back to its pre-war levels of employment.

The delegation was then briefed by Mr. Don Grady of the IPTF (who had come to Bosnia after a career in the United States in local law enforcement, most recently in New Mexico):

In Brcko, the local IPTF-trained and supervised police force is now on the verge of being able to do open policing. The police force has been structured on multi-ethnic lines and has been functioning as a unit since the beginning of 1998.

Mr. Grady explained that in building this police force, the IPTF role centers on training for "democratic policing", which perhaps can be best understood when contrasted with the previous role of police in Bosnia, which had inherited the mindset and functions of the internal security forces established over 50 years as part of Communist Yugoslavia.

IPTF training is centered out of Sarajevo, where after individual certification by IPTF, prospective police members are provided what in essence is "mini-police academy training". The intent is to train police to conduct a "full service police operation", with jurisdiction ranging from local traffic and petty crimes to more serious phenomena such as organized crime and the black market. For the latter, where offenses cross local jurisdictional lines and also simply require greater resources and expertise, local forces work in conjunction with the ministry.

Mr. Grady summarized his presentation by saying "I think what's going on here is pretty spectacular . . . it could be a prototype for the rest of Bosnia." He did state that the IPTF was well aware of the unique position of Brcko given its being subject to arbitration and that it was working with SFOR, as well as the local police, to ensure there would be coordination in the event of violence.

TRIBUTE TO DR. SAMUEL P. MASSIE—MENTOR, LEADER, AND TOP SCIENTIST

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, and internationally renowned scientist, Dr. Samuel P. Massie, who was recently added to the list of the "World's Most Distinguished Chemists." I have had the privilege of knowing Sam for a great number of years and know that he is quite deserving of this great honor.

In this era of science and high-technology, Dr. Samuel P. Massie is the perfect role model for aspiring scientists of all races, but particularly for African-Americans. His life is an example of the great things they can accomplish and the impact they can have on the sciences. His contributions helped to change the course of science and to advance the discipline to its current priority status on the national agenda. His work has earned him world acclaim, and the honorable titles of Master Teacher and Scientist Extraordinaire.

I recommend to our colleagues Dr. Samuel P. Massie's story, as reported in a February 26, 1998 Washington Post article titled "Living Out A Formula for Success: Academy's First Black Professor Is Among Top-Rated Chemists." It is my hope that they will share this wonderful piece with the future leaders of America.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 26, 1998]

LIVING OUT A FORMULA FOR SUCCESS—ACADEMY'S FIRST BLACK PROFESSOR IS AMONG TOP-RATED CHEMISTS

(By Amy Argetsinger)

On a new roster of the world's most distinguished chemists—Madame Curie, Linus Pauling, big names like that—there are only three black scientists.

One is the famed agricultural scientist George Washington Carver, who a century ago transformed the economy of the South by developing new industrial uses for sweet potatoes and peanuts. Another is Percy Julian, a pioneering chemist.

And the third is the only one still alive—Samuel P. Massie, professor emeritus at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Though proud to be named to an elite industry list of the all-time top 75 distinguished contributors to the field of chemistry, Massie, now 78, welcomed the news with the breezy modesty that has marked a lifetime of remarkable achievements, one that gave him key vantage points to both the development of the atomic bomb and the civil rights turmoil of the 1960s.

"You do what you can do in that regard," the Laurel resident said.

A pioneer in silicon studies and the Naval Academy's first black professor, Massie is one of only 32 living scientists on the list compiled last month by Chemical and Engineering News to mark the magazine's 75th anniversary. The list includes 35 Nobel Prize winners and celebrated names like Kodak founder George Eastman, DNA researchers James Watson and Francis Crick, and plutonium discoverer, Glenn Seaborg.

Born in North Little Rock, Ark., Massie rushed through school, graduating at age 13. As a young child, he got a head start on his peers by following his schoolteacher mother around from class to class, enabling him to skip grades three years in a row. Today, his personal experience has left him a believer in classrooms blending multiple grade levels.

"Young children don't all learn at the same rate," he said.

Attending A.M.N. College—now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff—Massie was drawn to chemistry studies after becoming fixated on finding a cure for his father's asthma. After graduating at age 18, he launched into graduate studies at Fisk University and Iowa State University, where he worked on the Manhattan Project team, trying to convert uranium isotopes to a usable form for the atomic bomb.

After working as a teacher at Fisk University and Howard University, Massie was named president of North Carolina College in 1963, as the civil rights movement was taking hold in the region.

"Kids marching around the place, waving signs, singing 'We Shall Overcome,'" Massie recalled. "They were fun times."

Massie was hired by the Naval Academy in 1966—a time when Annapolis was still so segregated that he and his wife, Gloria, now a psychology professor retired from Bowie State University, were unable to find a home they wanted. Real estate agents wouldn't even take them to certain exclusive neighborhoods.

But Massie said he was unruffled by his introduction to the military college, where the vast majority of students were white in the mid-1960s.

"It wasn't difficult for me because I understood chemistry," he said. "I just had to make sure we understood each other."

While at the academy, Massie pursued research into anti-bacterial agents, and with some colleagues and midshipmen students was awarded a patent for a chemical effective in fighting gonorrhea. He also conducted environmental research at the Navy's David Taylor Research Center outside Annapolis, studying chemicals to prevent the growth of barnacles on ship hulls and developing protective foams to guard against nerve gases.

Massie said he found the academy, with its stringent admission standards and emphasis on technical education, a luxurious teaching environment.

"Scholarship is emphasized here—you knew you could expect certain things of your students," he said. "You had enough money to have the proper equipment, and students could afford all their books," unlike students at some of the civilian colleges where he taught.

Massie said midshipmen were sometimes baffled by his unorthodox way of scoring exams—two points for each question they got right, but 50 points subtracted for each one they got wrong. He was trying to prove a point to them:

"Everything in life doesn't have the same value," he said. "It depends on the circumstances."

AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1432) to authorize a new trade and investment policy for sub-Saharan Africa:

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Chairman, the most important thing about the U.S. trade policy towards sub-Saharan Africa is that there isn't one. Congress has an opportunity to change that situation by passing HR 1432, the African Growth and Opportunity Act, a widely supported bipartisan bill, that creates the framework for qualified African countries to move from aid to trade.

For the first time since the end of the colonial era, the United States is proposing to engage the countries of sub-Saharan Africa on the same basis as we do the rest of the world, as trading partners. The old donor and recipient paradigm, that has historically defined U.S. relations with Africa, is being replaced by a new and more dynamic paradigm that states that:

... it is in the mutual economic interest of the United States and the countries of Africa to promote programs, policies and strategies that reduce poverty through economic growth, self reliance, and commerce. Traditional aid, while still necessary in some countries, is not sufficient to bring about fundamental change in Africa. Economic growth, self reliance, and commerce are not only vital for raising living standards on a broad basis, but also for addressing the critical social and health needs that plague Africa. Without a strong commitment to economic growth, self reliance, and commerce, no social programs, no schedule expenditures, no amount of aid will make a sustained improvement in the quality of life of Africa's citizens. Africa needs economic growth to make its social objectives feasible.

HR 1432 is the beginning of a process that will change our negative bureaucratic culture towards Africa. HR 1432 is strongly supported by all of Africa's political and economic leaders. The response from Africa had been clear, Africans want to be trading partners with the U.S. and the world, not perpetual recipients of donor assistance. HR 1432 explicitly states that the U.S. should continue to provide traditional development assistance to those countries attempting to build civil societies. In fact, the bill also states that economic growth depends on establishing a receptive environment for trade and investment, and that to achieve this objective USAID should continue to pursue programs in Africa. The Clinton Administration, including USAID, have strongly endorsed this legislation.

Many of the countries of Africa are moving in the right direction. Political and economic reform are beginning to take hold and a new generation of leaders have assumed power through elections. Things are much better, albeit not perfect, but better. Many countries in Africa have experienced positive growth rates over the last five years. Africa currently has 14

stock markets and the number is growing. Trade between the U.S. is growing, it is currently larger than trade between the U.S. and the former Soviet Union. The American corporate community has developed a renewed interest in Africa. Now is the time to seize the initiative and work to solidify the positive developments that are taking place in Africa. HR 1432 gives the world's largest economy a plan to help the smallest economies to grow and prosper without harming U.S. consumers, manufacturers, or workers.

In addition to establishing a trade policy towards Africa, HR 1432 is composed of three primary cornerstones and several key initiatives. The first cornerstone is the negotiation of U.S.-Africa free trade agreements. The negotiation of the free trade agreements gives us the opportunity to begin the process of bilateral and multilateral discussion that, over a number of years, will lead to the type of economic and trade relations that are mutually beneficial to Africa and the U.S. HR 1432 is not a free trade agreement—it promotes free trade with African countries as a goal for the future.

The second cornerstone is the creation of a U.S.-African Economic Cooperation Forum, loosely modeled on APEC. The forum will begin to change the perception of Africa as anything other than a recipient of donor aid, or as a humanitarian basket case. The forum will be the place where trade and investment issues and concerns will be discussed at by Cabinet level officials and will demonstrate to the international community that the United States takes Africa seriously. The forum will also send a signal to our business community that the U.S. government is committed to making it easier to do business in Africa.

The third cornerstone is the U.S.-Africa investment partnership. OPIC will be directed to establish a privately managed equity fund and an infrastructure fund that will leverage private financing for small and moderate sized U.S. and African businesses, and expand opportunities for infrastructure development throughout Africa. The demand for infrastructure in Africa is enormous but, the response from the international finance community has not been promising. It is clear that Africa's future competitiveness depends on reliable telecommunications, roads, railways, and power plants.

The principal goal of our three cornerstones is to attract international project financing to Africa, and to make it financially feasible for U.S. investors to participate in profitable business opportunities in Africa. If successful, there will be substantial job growth, increase in per capita incomes, and expanded trade between the U.S. and Africa.

While the three cornerstone programs will take time to implement, there is one initiative that could have an immediate impact on Africa countries. African textile and clothing exports to the U.S. represent less than 1% (about \$383 million) of the total import market of \$46 billion. HR 1432 contains a provision that could be implemented immediately and would not compete with U.S. products or cost U.S. jobs. In fact, when the World Bank analyzed HR 1432, it reported that the impact on U.S. manufacturers would be negligible. The provision eliminates the existing quotas on textiles and clothing exports from the countries of Africa as long as a cost effective and efficient

visa system to guard against transshipment is in place. This provision represents a major opportunity to expand Africa's exports to the U.S. and generates more than 200,000 jobs and millions of dollars in tax revenue for Africa. Moreover, African and American products would not compete with each other.

HR 1432 is a commitment to a major shift in emphasis towards a private sector and market incentives approach to stimulating economic growth and reducing poverty in Africa. To participate, a country will have to meet eligibility requirements based on a strong commitment to economic, political, and trade liberalization.

Some think this initiative is naive, overly optimistic, or just completely unrealistic. I think that it is time that the U.S. becomes actively involved in building an economic partnership with the countries of Africa. That's what HR 1432 intends to do.

Mr. Speaker, on the floor of the House of Representatives, we often hear of days which are declared "historic". However, with the passage of HR 1432, the African Growth and Opportunity Act, today is truly a historic day.

COMMEMORATION OF CALIFORNIA'S CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commemorate the week of March 15–21, 1998, which Governor Pete Wilson has proclaimed as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Week," in my home State of California.

Each year, about 10,000 children in our country are diagnosed with cancer. In California, this deadly disease is the second leading cause of death among children. There can be little else that can compare with the senselessness and tragedy of a little child who has been struck with a life-threatening illness. Today, I would like to recognize the American Cancer Fund for Children, and it's founder, Steven Firestein, for not only helping to find a cure for these sick children, but for easing their road to recovery, or to their final rest.

The American Cancer Fund for Children has helped families get through what is certain to be the most difficult time in their lives. Providing food, clothing, transportation, prosthetic devices and social service programs to young cancer patients, this organization comes to the aid of families who need it the most. They help take away worries, so families can have more time for hope.

Besides touching lives of individual children, the American Cancer Fund for Children has also made an impact on communities, through outreach and education about childhood cancer, and has contributed to cancer research.

While researchers and activists continue to search for a cure for cancer, it's important to recognize the interim needs of child victims and their families. Steven Firestein and the American Cancer Fund for children are doing just that. I encourage all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the American Cancer Fund

for Children, and it's continuing efforts in easing the pain of childhood sickness and reaching for a cure.

INDIA LABELS INNOCENT SIKH A "TERRORIST"

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conspired to place a false label of "terrorist" on a young Sikh man named Navjot Singh, and that the vaunted National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has ignored his case.

I have a copy of a letter sent to the NHRC President by the young man's father, Tarlok Singh Chhabra, this past December 12, 1997, that details his case. It is very disturbing. The letter states "that the CBI with the connivance of Delhi Police, planted a false claim" against Navjot Singh. According to the letter, "on protracted correspondence with the NHRC, it transpired that the NHRC had not bothered at all to go through the representation." Navjot Singh was forced to sign false papers to implicate him falsely in an incident in Delhi, as well as another pending case. This is an outrageous abuse of power, unacceptable in any country, but especially when that country wants to portray itself as the world's largest "democracy."

Several of us recently sent a letter to the Government of Punjab regarding its failure to punish those responsible for the genocide against the Sikh Nation. It requested that the Punjab Chief Minister appoint a commission to investigate over 75 cases of police murder, rape, and torture of Sikh youth that have been documented by the CBI, the Supreme Court of India, and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. In fact, these agencies report that this abusive behavior has occurred deliberately, and on a massive scale. Also, it has been reported that the Punjab Government is diverting the mail of a fiercely independent journalist named Sukhbir Singh Osan. And a number of my colleagues were dismayed by Prime Minister Gujral's recent threat that "Hindustan will not tolerate another attack on Iraq." Now we are informed about Mr. Navjot Singh and his unfortunate experience with the Indian Government. India may have conducted a new round of elections, resulting in its fifth government in two years, but it takes more than elections to make a democracy.

Mr. Speaker, India is one of the five largest recipients of U.S. foreign aid, and the President wants to increase last year's assistance by almost \$12 million. The Indian Government is responsible for taking the lives of 250,000 Sikhs in Punjab between 1984–1992, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1974, and 53,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988. There are a half-million Indian soldiers occupying the province of Punjab, and another half-million occupying Kashmir. We should not be supporting a government that condones these widespread abuses with American tax dollars.

The United States is the world's preeminent power, arguably the only Nation on earth with both the economic might and the moral legitimacy to make the observance of human rights a pillar of its foreign policy. The unfortunate peoples of the world, whose basic human rights are suppressed either by tyrants or failed economic experiments, turn to the United States for hope, not cheap imports! From India to China, the people who suffer under such regimes understand that, if America joins their struggle by sacrificing short-term economic gain for long-term justice and freedom, the regimes will ultimately succumb.

An increase in aid is difficult to justify to the American people, who send their hard-earned tax dollars to a country that obviously shares none of our most-cherished values. The time has come for action, it is time for America to take a stand.

The Human Rights in India Act, introduced by me along with my good friend and colleague GARY CONNIT of California, will bar development aid to India unless the government releases prisoners of conscience, ends the practice of torture by police and military forces, permits impartial investigations of reported torture and disappearances of those in custody, brings to justice police forces responsible for human rights abuses, and permits critics of the government to travel abroad.

My colleagues, from this well of the House of Representatives you will hear many stories of human rights abuses from all around the world. Today, I ask that you think of the hundreds of thousands who are suffering in India. Please do not turn your back on the innocent. Give them a flicker of hope and send a strong message to the Government of India. I urge my colleagues to give the Human Rights in India Act their full consideration, and their strong support.

I am placing Mr. Chhabra's letter into the RECORD, and recommend that my colleagues give it their immediate attention.

Subject: Conspiracy of the CBI to implicate Mr. Navjot Singh, an innocent boy & labelled him fraudulently as a "terrorist"

The CHAIRMAN.

National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi.

SIR: Your attention is invited immediately to paras 6 and 7 of my representation dated 19-1-96, which is reproduced for ready reference: "That the CBI with the connivance of Delhi Police, planted a false case and implicated him in FIR 681/95 of 27-9-95 and he was lodged in Tihar Jail Delhi for about 6 weeks in 'C' class and that too in solitary confinement whereas in Chandigarh he was kept in 'B' class on account of his academic and professional qualifications. That the falsification of Delhi Police case can be proven by its own concocted story, that on 17-9-95 he had been arrested from our home and on the next day produced in the Chandigarh Police and remanded to police custody & then Judicial custody and it was from Burail Jail Chandigarh only to Delhi and planted a false case against him in Delhi whereas he was never present at Delhi on 27-09-95 as he was present in his office up to the last date of his arrest. During his police remand Delhi, he was interrogated by the officers/officials of the CBI only and not by any other Agency. There at also he was forced to sign many blank papers etc."

2. On protracted correspondence with the NHRC, it transpired that the NHRC had not bothered at all to go through the representation in totality and had taken the matter

lightly which required rapt attention of the NHRC in such a crucial matter involving the whole career of an educated young man. I have the documentary evidence to adduce, that it is all a conspiracy of the CBI officials to implicate my son falsely in Delhi case as well as Beant Singh case. What the hell on earth is that my son was forced to sign many blank papers including few diary pages of an old diary at gun point? Why duty is not cast upon the investigating agencies to faithfully discharge their duties and not involve innocent people in concocted and false cases which has glaringly happened in our case? Why penal action should not be taken against defaulting officials, who themselves behave like criminals and human rights are violated? A thorough enquiry be conducted and I be associated with the NHRC Court proceedings with following observations besides other issues:

1. The name of my son in FIR 681/95, does not figure at all at any stage.

2. The concocted confessional statement has been written in a language other than English and his signatures in English were already taken on blank sheets besides diary writings and few papers might have been filled in later on suiting the whims and fancies of the investigating officials, which is again a criminal offence on the part of the so called investigating officials and this fact cannot be ignored.

3. The Delhi case against my son came into being only as CBI were refused further remand by Chandigarh Court in Beant Singh case, in which he was falsely implicated already.

4. My son had never known any person named as co-accused or to any witness cited by the prosecuting agency, which again shows implication in a false and concocted case.

5. He was already arrested on 17-9-95 and was already lodged in Chandigarh Jail, whereas the Delhi FIR came into being on 27-9-95, what a big fraud? He was straight away taken from Chandigarh Jail for Delhi, it is highly unbelievable as to how the Delhi Police came to know that he was already lodged in Chandigarh Jail, whereas in the statement of a witness falsely brought on record by Delhi Police in connivance with CBI, as the complete residential address as well as the name of father of Navjot Singh was completely missing, requires thorough probe and stern action against the erring officials, both of CBI and the Delhi Police which culminated in implicating an innocent boy in false cases. It is pertinent to add that he was subjected to 3rd degree methods, just to compel him to become approver in Beant Singh assassination case which he flatly refused to do so. He was also threatened that he will be implicated in other false cases of other states too and his family members shall also be subjected to all sorts of tortures etc.

PRAYER

I urge to your Lordship to please raise our case to its entirety and book the culprit officers/officials of the CBI and of Delhi police in whose connivance all episode of Delhi case as well as Chandigarh case took place, which had shaken the whole precious life of my only son.

Yours faithfully,

TARLOK SINGH CHHABRA,
889, Sector-60, MOHALI.

TRIBUTE TO DON TURNER

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and dedication of Don Turner who will retire from his post as Superintendent of Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School at the end of the 1998 school year.

Mr. Turner retires from Bradley-Bourbonnais Community after thirty-five years of service to the High School. Mr. Turner grew up in Chrisman, Illinois where his dream in life was to become a basketball coach. After graduation from High School, Mr. Turner entered Eastern Illinois University to pursue that dream but left halfway through to serve in the Korean War. After serving his country, Mr. Turner returned home and finished his degree at Eastern Illinois University.

Mr. Turner's dream of becoming a coach became true when he became the head basketball coach at Lafayette High School. After two years of coaching at Lafayette, he moved to Serena, Illinois to become the high school basketball coach. It was during this time that Mr. Turner decided to make a career change. He returned to college and obtained a master's degree in education administration from the University of Illinois. After receiving his master's degree, he became principal at Gilman Grade School and after one year he became principal at Gilman High School.

In 1963, Mr. Turner was hired by Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School. During his tenure at Bradley-Bourbonnais High School, Mr. Turner has been dean of boys, dean of students, and assistant superintendent. In 1982, Mr. Turner became the Superintendent at Bradley-Bourbonnais High School. Mr. Turner has seen Bradley-Bourbonnais High School grow dramatically and has been instrumental in the additions of the pool, computers and the new auditorium. Mr. Turner's best memories of the school include all the people who have passed through its doors. In spite of numerous job offers, Mr. Turner has never considered leaving Bradley-Bourbonnais High School.

Mr. Speaker, today I recognize this gentleman for his honorable career, uncommon loyalty, and education impact. I urge this body to identify and recognize others in their communities whose actions have so greatly benefited and strengthened America's schools.

TRIBUTE TO LT. GEN. JOE N. BALLARD

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Lt. Gen. Joe Ballard the Chief of Army Engineers and the Commander of the United States Army Corp of Engineers. On February 28, General Ballard was recognized as the Black Engineer of the Year during the 12th Annual Black Engineer of the Year

Awards Conference at Baltimore, Maryland. This award was presented by the Career Communications Group and the Council of Engineering Deans of the Historically Black College and Universities. A panel of judges from industry and academia screened over 200 entries and unanimously agreed that General Ballard was by far the best qualified for this award. General Ballard, a native of Oakdale, Louisiana, and a graduate of Southern University, leads the world's premier public engineering organization with engineering, construction and real estate responsibilities worldwide.

In the civil works program, the Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for operating and maintaining 275 locks, 12,000 miles of navigable waterway and 300 deep draft harbors. Flood control systems across our nation prevent an estimated \$26.8 billion in potential damage each year and Corps facilities provide 24 percent of our nation's hydroelectric power. When disaster hits our hometowns across the United States, General Ballard's forces are always on the front lines fighting as they did recently in the Midwest and California floods and the New England ice storm.

General Ballard overseas the design and construction management of military facilities for the Army and Air Forces worldwide and often provides the same support for other Defense and federal agencies. As the senior Engineer in the Army, his engineer soldiers are also found on the front lines in Bosnia and Kuwait serving our nation. Through all this, he has the additional responsibilities for the nation's environment, managing environmental restoration programs and practicing environmentally sustainable development to balance environment values with economic growth.

It is a tremendous honor that one of our finest public servants is recognized across the country as the Black Engineer of the Year for 1998. We applaud General Ballard for his professionalism, dedication and leadership, and we in the Congress, congratulate him on this significant distinction.

DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT TO REMOVE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SPEECH OF

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 1998

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my reluctant opposition to this resolution, which I believe proposes the wrong means of achieving the right end. I opposed the President's original decision to deploy our troops in Bosnia because I believed that neither the goals of the mission nor the exit strategy was clearly defined. Furthermore, I strongly suspected that the Dayton Agreement would not easily or permanently resolve the disagreements dividing groups in the region, and that the conditions of the Dayton Agreement could only be enforced through a long-term U.S. presence. As a result, I have voted on numerous occasions to put an end to this seemingly endless deployment of troops.

Unfortunately, my reservations have become reality. A mission originally characterized by President Clinton as a temporary implementation measure has turned into an open ended mission with U.S. troops serving as everything from peacekeepers, to traffic cops, to construction workers. For that reason, I have supported efforts in the House to fix a date certain for the withdrawal of our forces through the use of our Constitutional authority to control funding for such missions.

I must confess that because of my strong desire to see our troops returned home I considered supporting H. Con. Res. 227. However, in the end I cannot in good conscience endorse a process which I believe to be unconstitutional simply to settle a policy difference with this President. I have consistently opposed the War Powers Act as contrary to the intent of the framers of the Constitution, who reserved leadership in foreign policy to the Presidency.

I have always viewed the War Powers Act, enacted in 1973, as a partisan gimmick devised and used by liberal Democratic Congresses seeking to tie the hands of Republican presidents with whom they disagreed. To change my position now that we have a Congress controlled by Republicans in order to score points against Bill Clinton would be politically opportune, but counter to my basic opposition to the War Powers Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject the unconstitutional mechanisms of the War Powers Act and defeat this resolution. Instead, I encourage my colleagues to vote their consciences on the Bosnia issue when we consider the President's request for additional funding to continue this deployment. Let us bring our troops home in an orderly, but timely manner. I have voted to do so before and I will do so again, but not in a way that I believe does such great damage to the doctrine of separation of powers enshrined in our Constitution.

TRIBUTE TO DR. STANLEY S.
BERGEN, JR.

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Dr. Stanley S. Bergen, Jr., to mark the occasion of his retirement as President of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ).

Dr. Bergen has served the State of New Jersey with exceptional dedication, energy and leadership that has distinguished his 27-year career as the first and only president of UMDNJ. Under Dr. Bergen's stewardship, the University has emerged as the largest public university of the health sciences in the country, and serves as a national resource for health professions education, research, patient care, and service to the community.

Through his resolve to provide educational opportunity and health care services to all the people of New Jersey, UMDNJ has grown to include seven schools on five academic campuses statewide, with programs at more than

one hundred affiliated educational and health care institutions in communities throughout the State.

Dr. Bergen is recognized as a national authority on health care and a prominent leader in academic medicine in the State and in the nation.

It is fitting and proper that the members of Congress salute Dr. Bergen's exemplary career and service to New Jersey and the nation. His high standard of excellence in education, research and patient care have brought pride and honor to our State.

We wish him well in the years ahead and hope that he will continue to serve as a valuable resource to New Jersey and the nation.

TRIBUTE TO GAINESVILLE FIRE
DEPARTMENT

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in December of 1997 I had the honor of speaking to the Gainesville Fire Department at their annual Christmas banquet. Since that time, I have visited informally with Steve R. Boone, the highly regarded Fire Chief of the Gainesville Fire Department, Capt. Wally Cox, Training Officer, and Lt. David Tharp, Fire Safety Education Officer. I am impressed by their dedication and commitment to public service.

One of the main goals of the Gainesville Fire Department is to provide educational programs on fire safety. The Department accomplishes this by presenting programs in the local school systems as well as community events, sponsoring industrial training sessions, and making presentations to civic clubs. Ninety percent of their funding for fire safety education is received through donations from the community—evidence of the support that the Department receives from local citizens.

The Gainesville Fire Department has chosen to take a proactive approach to fire prevention and safety, rather than just a reactive one. Their efforts undoubtedly will help save lives and property. In the past, the Gainesville Fire Department has been recognized for their efforts by local groups, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, insurance companies, and other entities. Senator PHIL GRAMM also has recognized their commitment to serving the citizens of Cooke County.

Mr. Speaker, too often we take for granted the efforts of those who place their own lives at risk for their fellow citizens. I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to an outstanding group of public servants—the Gainesville Fire Department—and to other firemen across our great nation whose dedication to the prevention of fires and injuries deserves our gratitude and respect.

TRIBUTE TO HAZEL WOLF

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Hazel Wolf. On Saturday, March 21, 1998, hundreds of her friends will gather in Seattle celebrating her 100th birthday and giving thanks for her lifetime of dedication to the environment and human rights.

Born in Victoria, British Columbia on March 10, 1898, Hazel emigrated to the United States in 1923 as a single mother seeking work to support her young daughter, eventually becoming a legal secretary. Hazel officially became a citizen in 1976 after devoting more than 50 years to making our country a better place to live.

Through the years Hazel championed issues of importance for women, working people, human rights, and the environment. A true citizen of the world, her work has been recognized with awards by numerous international, state, and local organizations. On Saturday the Seattle Audubon Society will acknowledge the "rare bird" by announcing the creation of the Hazel Wolf Kids for the Environment Endowment. This fund will be dedicated to helping urban youth experience and appreciate nature, a lasting tribute to a woman who cherishes our nation's young people and loves the beauty of our natural world.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Hazel for demonstrating to us the value of a simple life adorned with the riches of a lifetime of service to humanity and nature. We wish her continuing vigor in pursuit of future endeavors.

CROATIAN POLICE ATTACK PROTESTERS AT PEACEFUL TRADE UNION RALLY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today I am sharing with my colleagues various newspaper articles related to a recent peaceful rally in which protesters were attacked by Croatian police. It was reported in the Federal Tribune that there were between 12,000 to 14,000 policemen from throughout Croatia brought in to control an estimated 10,000 to 30,000 protesters. The rally was organized by the largest trade union in Croatia and several opposition political parties. The reported focus of the rally were issues of high unemployment and poor living conditions for workers and retirees, while at the same time it has been reported that Croatia's President Franjo Tudjman has amassed a considerable fortune for himself and his family. I am also inserting into the RECORD an informative article released this week by Jack Anderson and Jan Moller entitled, "Croatian Seeks To End Human-Rights Abuses."

[From BBC News, Feb. 21, 1998]

CROATIAN POLICE DENY DEMO INJURIES

The Croatian Interior Ministry has denied reports that police used force against demonstrators during a mass protest in the capital Zagreb.

Tens of thousands of people took part in what is described as the largest rally the nation has seen, against growing poverty and unemployment.

The government banned the demonstration from main city square, Ban Jelacic square, deploying hundreds of police with riot gear to prevent the crowd from gaining access.

Protesters threw apples and eggs at officers and a shop window was shattered.

An Interior Ministry statement, carried by the official news agency HINA, contradicted Croatian radio and TV reports that several people were being treated in hospital for injuries.

Five police staff were also reported injured.

The demonstration was organized by three trade unions and backed by 10 opposition parties.

Correspondents say about 10,000 protesters moved to Marshall Tito square, also known as Theatre Square, where they held an hour-long meeting.

The head of the Croatian Workers Trade Union, Boris Kunst, said he was saddened that the Croatian police had raised their hands against the protesters.

"These people that gathered here are those who defended Croatia," he said. "But they cannot live off their salaries, while the others are decorating their palaces and are stealing from us."

Protesters called on ministers to reduce their own salaries and scrap the newly-introduced 22% value added tax which has seen prices increase on basic goods including food.

Correspondents say Croats have been reluctant to demonstrate against the government, led by President Franco Tudjman, since the country achieved independence through a devastating war in 1991.

But dissatisfaction among citizens is mounting as the majority of them face post-war poverty.

An unemployment rate, which independent analysts say tops 23%, is at the center of public grievances.

As the rate rises a new wealthy elite, consisting mainly of businessmen favored by the government or ruling party members, has emerged.

VECERNJI LIST—MARCH 18, 1998

ZAGREB. President of the United American Trade Union headquarters AFL-CIO John J. Sweeney sent a letter to the President of the Republic of Croatia Franjo Tudjman protesting confiscation of the trade union's property. Mr. Sweeney appealed to the government of Croatia that it was urgent that they change their position and rescind their orders under the "law of unions" in relation to the trade union's property, and withdraw their decision about nationalization of the trade union's property, declared the International Department of the Association of the Independent Trade Unions in Croatia, the largest association of trade unions in Croatia.

DIE TAGESZEITUNG—FEBRUARY 24, 1998

BERLIN, Federal Republic of Germany. At the peaceful rally in Zagreb, which was organized by the Association of Workers' Unions and several political opposition parties, on Friday, February 20th in the capital of Croatia, Zagreb, were tens of thousands of people

who protested against social and economic policy and unemployment. The target of this protest was Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and the government of the ruling party, HDZ, who were proclaimed responsible for the poor living conditions of workers, retirees and unemployed persons. People shouted "Tudjman is Saddam" and "All of you are thieves". People were angry and resisting the selling of many factories to leading members of HDZ for symbolic money and that the current value of the private property of the President and his family is more than \$1 billion.

DIE PRESSE—FEBRUARY 28, 1998

VIENNA, Austria. A Press Correspondent from Zagreb reported that President of Croatia, Dr. Franjo Tudjman has property of several billion dollars in German marks and this was the reason for the large workers' demonstration in Zagreb's streets. It is very important that the trade unions want to change policy through their demonstrations.

CROATIAN SEEKS TO END HUMAN-RIGHTS ABUSES

(By Jack Anderson and Jan Moller)

When Dobroslov Paraga rallied his fellow Croatians for change in 1991, he could get only a few hundred supporters to publicly protest Croatian President Franjo Tudjman's regime.

Seven years later, close to 15,000 of Paraga's countrymen routinely crowd the city squares in discontent over the civil rights violations and declining economic fortunes that have befallen Croatia under Tudjman's watch. One-fourth of all Croats are currently unemployed.

"Before, people were afraid to speak out against the government," Paraga told our associate Kathryn Wallace. "Now they are hungry."

Conditions were supposed to improve when the communist government toppled in 1990 and democracy prevailed.

But Paraga tells us the new government is still communist, albeit disguised as a social democracy.

A 1997 State Department report agrees with this assessment, referring to the government as "authoritarian" and Tudjman's recent re-election as "fundamentally flawed."

"The president serves as head of state and commander of the armed forces, chairs the influential National Defense and Security Council, appoints the prime minister who leads the government, and approves senior appointments in local government," the report states.

"Government influence circumscribes and weakens the judiciary. This, combined with the extensive constitutional powers of the presidency, the overwhelming dominance of the (Croatian Democratic Union, Tudjman's party), its absolute control of television, and the continuing concentration of power within the one-party central government, makes Croatia's nominally democratic system in reality authoritarian."

It also grants the government the ability to violate human rights as it sees fit.

The tall, rumped Paraga doesn't look the part of a patriot or a politician. Yet in the last decade he's been arrested and jailed in his own country as well as in Austria and Canada for what the Croatian government calls "high treason" and "terrorist acts."

Paraga's offense? He was the president on the Croatian Party of Rights 1861, espousing such radical views as freedom of the press and an equitable separation of powers be-

tween the judicial, legislative and executive branches of government. A 1993 visit to Washington to raise awareness of human rights violations in his homeland led to his removal from the legislature. The government's reason: "Dissemination of false information" to incite rebellion.

"Our neighbors have freedom, but we stay at the same place," Paraga told us. "I have lost 28 friends in car bombs and assassinations, (and) I have been imprisoned. I have lost fear."

While Paraga has been outspoken of the offenses of his government—assigning responsibility for the assassinations of 28 officials of his party to Tudjman's group—he disavows any violent or terrorist activities.

He is in the United States now at the invitation of recently retired Rep. Ronald V. Dellums, D-Calif., the ranking member of the House National Security Committee, to help draft a human rights resolution—which, if passed, would be the first official policy statement by the United States about the government of Croatia.

It's not the first time that Paraga has sought congressional help in his freedom fight. He first came to our attention nearly a decade ago, in 1989, when Croatia was still part of communist Yugoslavia. Then a 28-year-old dissident, he had already been in five prisons for a total of four years, the first time being when he was only 19.

In 1980 he and his friend Ernest Brajder were thrown in jail for circulating a petition opposing torture in Yugoslavia. Paraga came out alive, but Brajder did not. After three days in jail, he was dead in what the U.S. State Department admitted were "mysterious circumstances."

Back in 1989, Paraga made the rounds on Capitol Hill, as he has this month, explaining the plight of those who dared stand up to the Croatian authorities. The Senate believed Paraga and passed a resolution with plenty of "whereas" and "therefore" language. It had no binding effect on anyone, but it nevertheless made headlines in Yugoslavia.

One again, Paraga is hoping that a congressional resolution will help prod the Croatian government into loosening its iron-fisted grip on power and information. He told us that his party, disbanded by the government, nonetheless has the support of as much as 80 percent of young people in Croatia.

After nearly a decade of war and political turmoil, it's high time that Croatia gets back on the road toward free markets and respect for human rights. If a congressional resolution can help bring this about, we urge Congress to act without delay.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO ADJUST THE BOUNDARIES OF THE LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA AND THE WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced a bill today that would correct a mistakenly drawn boundary between the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area and the Wenatchee National Forest.

This measure would move the boundary that divides one land owner's property into two

different federal jurisdictions, the National Park Service and the National Forest Service. While the land owner was originally assured that his property was located completely within the Wenatchee National Forest, it is now apparent that due to an error in the original boundary designation, that only part of his property is so designated. This bill would retroactively change this oversight to the original intent.

IN MEMORY OF OREE WOODS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to someone I had the privilege of meeting just last November—Oree Lea Woods of Sadler, Texas—who died on January 19 at his residence after a long illness. He was 79 years old. Although I knew Oree only two short months, I felt that I had known him all my life.

I had the opportunity to visit Oree and his wife, Jean, at the invitation of CASHA Resource Home Health Services. This was one of several home health visits that I made during our winter break. I have long been a supporter of home health services as a member of the Health and Environment Subcommittee of the Commerce Committee, and it was good to see how much these services meant to Oree. Oree had experienced continued health problems during the past two years and had been a home health patient for two months when I met him. He and Jean had high praise for this service and were grateful to have this health assistance during Oree's recuperation period.

Oree was a World War II veteran and a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He served for three years as Mayor of Sadler, was a retired metal lather, and was a member of the First Baptist Church. He was married to his wife, Jean, for 57 years, and they have a son, Kimsey Woods, a daughter, Karen Whitmire, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Because of home health care, I was able to visit with Oree and Jean in the comfort of their home, where we swapped many stories about

family, childhood escapades, school, World War II experiences, and health care. I came away from our visit feeling that I had truly had a chance to get to know Oree—an experience that I think would not have been possible outside the home environment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of home health services in enhancing the quality of life for thousands of patients throughout our nation. As we adjourn today, it is a privilege for me to pay tribute to the late Oree Lea Woods—a man who lived his life in devotion to his wife, his family, his community, and his country.

ANNOUNCING THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REDUCE THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY MARCH 19, 1998

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today Representative KLECZKA and I are introducing legislation to reduce the marriage tax penalty for most Americans.

The marriage penalty reduction legislation I am introducing with Representative KLECZKA (D-WI) simply would increase the standard deduction for joint filers so that it equals twice that of single filers. The standard deduction in tax year 1997 is \$6,900 for joint returns and \$4,150 for single returns. Two singles get a combined standard deduction of \$8,300 compared to \$6,900 for a couple—thus penalizing the couple for getting married. In my view, increasing the standard deduction for joint filers is the simplest, fairest, easiest, and most fiscally responsible way in which to address the structural marriage tax penalties within the code.

As you can see from the attached charts to be inserted into the record, the fix I proposed last Congress would have eliminated virtually all marriage penalties, and, it even provides a modest bonus for one-earner families.

The McDermott-Klecza plan is progressive: Since most high-income taxpayers do not use the standard deduction, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has found that only 36%

of the benefits from this type of change goes to taxpayers earning \$50,000 or more—meaning—64% of the benefits go to couples earning less than \$50,000/year. CBO found that other leading repeal proposals direct at least 65% of the benefits to those taxpayers earning more than \$50,000/year.

The McDermott-Klecza plan is affordable: CBO estimates that increasing the standard deduction for joint filers costs roughly \$4 billion/year. Estimates prepared by the Joint Committee on Taxation verify this finding. Meanwhile, CBO found other leading repeal proposals cost as much as \$29 billion/year.

The McDermott-Klecza plan is family friendly: In addition to eliminating the marriage penalty, the standard deduction fix slightly increases the marriage bonus (see charts)—making it more affordable for the spouses of single earners who prefer to have a parent stay at home to care for their child or children. This bonus provides a small incentive without creating a new program and is not excessive so that it overly penalizes individuals for being unmarried.

The McDermott-Klecza plan is simple compared to the problems raised by other repeal proposals which will force taxpayers to do their taxes twice in order to figure out which is the best choice for their family.

In 1997, repeal of the marriage penalty was pushed aside by the Republican Majority. Inexplicably, in the W&M Committee, where roughly 20 members signed the Contract with America my amendment failed. Most likely, the Majority preferred cutting taxes for corporations (not mentioned in their contract). In my view, a tactical decision was made that it was more important to provide tax cuts preferred by the business community (such as reducing the corporate AMT and corporate capital gains tax cuts) than it was to address the marriage penalty.

In fact, no legislation was introduced during the 105th Congress to repeal the marriage penalty until after the Budget Agreement passed Congress last August.

Now that repeal of the marriage penalty is finally being addressed and if it sincerely is a priority of this Congress, I would urge my colleagues to take a second look at the McDermott-Klecza proposal before they rush to advocate an alternative.

STRUCTURAL MARRIAGE TAX PENALTIES AND BONUSES IN 1997 DOLLAR AND PERCENTAGE AMOUNTS BY WHICH JOINT INCOME TAX LIABILITIES EXCEED THOSE OF TWO SINGLES

[Marriage tax bonus shown in parenthesis]

Income levels (\$000s)	Joint income tax li- ability	50/50		60/40		70/30		100/0	
		Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
20	\$1,170	\$210	22	\$345	42	\$378	48	(\$810)	(41)
25	1,920	210	12	210	12	384	25	(810)	(30)
30	2,670	210	9	210	9	269	11	(810)	(23)
35	3,420	210	7	210	7	210	7	(1,272)	(27)
40	4,170	210	5	210	5	210	5	(1,922)	(32)
50	5,670	210	4	210	4	(252)	(4)	(3,222)	(36)
60	8,028	1,068	15	1,476	6	(304)	(4)	(3,664)	(31)
75	12,228	1,444	13	1,256	11	281	2	(3,918)	(24)
100	19,228	1,444	8	1,444	8	1,152	6	(4,668)	(19)

Source: CRS.

McDERMOTT-KLECZKA LEGISLATION CHANGES THE STRUCTURAL MARRIAGE TAX PENALTIES AND BONUSES: DOLLAR AND PERCENTAGE AMOUNTS BY WHICH JOINT INCOME TAX LIABILITIES EXCEED THOSE OF TWO SINGLES

[Marriage tax bonus shown in parenthesis]

Income levels (\$000s)	Joint income tax li- ability	50/50		60/40		70/30		100/0	
		Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
20	\$960			\$135	16	\$108	13	(\$1,020)	(52)
25	1,710					174	11	(1,020)	(37)
30	2,460					59	2	(1,020)	(29)
35	3,210							(1,482)	(32)
40	3,960							(2,132)	(35)
45	5,460					(462)	(8)	(3,432)	(39)
50	7,636	\$676	10	84	1	(696)	(8)	(4,058)	(35)
60	11,836	1,052	10	864	8	(111)	(1)	(4,310)	(27)
75	18,836	1,052	6	1,052	6	760	4	(5,060)	(21)

Source: CRS.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday during Roll Call vote number 58 I inadvertently voted yea. I intended to vote nay.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF MARY HARDIN-BAYLOR LADY CRUSADERS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor Lady Crusaders of Belton, Texas for their determination in making it to the national women's basketball championship game.

After posting an impressive season record of 24-6, the Lady Crusaders entered the women's NAIA Division II National Tournament unseeded. Fighting their way through highly ranked teams to the finals, they challenged Walsh University of Ohio for the championship trophy Tuesday night.

Although they fell in the championship game, these young ladies combined effort, teamwork, dedication, and vision to fool the experts and outplay their opposition. The Lady Crusaders set several new tournament records and proved that the underdog should never be counted out.

I ask you to join me in acknowledging the accomplishment of these outstanding athletes from my Texas Congressional District. Congratulations Lady Crusaders for a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREA GIBSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand here before you today and pay tribute to a courageous young person in my district. Ms. Andrea Gibson, a 11th-grader at Warren Central High School in Vicksburg, MS

saved a 5-year-old from drowning on June 29th in a pool in Birmingham, Ala. Ms. Gibson was on vacation with her mother when she noticed a child staring fearfully into the pool calling his brother's name.

When Andrea heard the young boy call out for his brother, she quickly noticed that the child was at the bottom of the pool and proceeded to jump in. Once the boy was rescued from the pool, Andrea quickly performed CPR to revive the young man. Had it not been for the actions of Ms. Gibson, the life of a young child could have been in severe jeopardy or lost.

Mr. Speaker, my hat goes off to Ms. Gibson. At a time in our history where so many children are doing negative things, it is stories such as these where we need to take a look at our young people's positive actions and congratulate them on their valor and good judgement. Ms. Gibson is a very courageous young woman and I wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LAMAR HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishment of the Colorado Class 4A State Girls Basketball Championship Team, the Savages of Lamar High School. The championship game of March 7, 1998 was the culmination of a perfect 25-0 season.

Here are many reasons this victory is so special for the team which hails from Lamar, an agricultural town of 8400 proud people in Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. They are proud of the fact that two of these fine athletes, Britt Hartshorn and Diane Dittburner, have been named "All-Americans." They are proud of the fact that their team had the strength and fortitude to overcome a 10-point deficit in the second half of the championship game. They are proud of Coach Dennis Bruns, who started the girls' basketball team in 1975 and has devoted the subsequent 23 years to the girls' athletic and academic excellence. They are proud of the fact that the Savages have won 96 of their last 100 games. But what makes them most proud of all is that this team has done what no other has—win four consecutive state championships.

This victory is an inspiration to all in high school athletics who strive for excellence and achievement. What these girls, from the plains of Colorado, have shown to all of us is that great talent and ability span across the state, the great state of Colorado and I ask the Congress to join me in congratulating these tremendous high school athletes and their dedicated Coach.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN DONOHOO

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, Georgetown, Ohio lost one of its finest last week: Dr. John Donohoo—known to his many friends, neighbors and patients simply as "Dr. John."

Dr. John was an old-fashioned family doctor in the finest American tradition. Throughout the 37 years he practiced medicine, if you happened to be sick, he came to your home. His fee was whatever the patient could afford; sometimes it was cash, other times it was a chicken or maybe some homegrown produce. There aren't many like him left.

A Georgetown native, he served in World War II as a medical technician before receiving his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Cincinnati. Dr. John dedicated a great deal of his time and leadership to the Brown County community. He served as a board member for Brown County Hospital; President of the Georgetown Exempted Village School District for nine years; and President of the Brown County Board of Health. He was also a member of the Georgetown Village Council; Chairman of the Brown County Courthouse Reconstruction Association; and an elder and choir member of the Georgetown Presbyterian Church. He loved horses and helped to found the Brown County Charity Horse Show, as well as owning and operating Donohoo Stable for 28 years.

Dr. John gave so much to so many throughout Brown County, but he will be missed the most by his family: his beloved wife of 55 years, Betty Donohoo; his children J. Michael Donohoo, Deborah Durbin and Dr. Jeffrey Donohoo; his mother Mary Donohoo; and his four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. John Donohoo represented the highest ideals of the medical profession. Throughout his life, he worked to make his community a better place to live. I salute his many contributions and offer my deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

CONGRATULATIONS TO REGINA MORRISSEY

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Miss Regina Morrissey on the occasion of her 90th birthday, which she will celebrate on March 27, 1998. Miss Morrissey was born in Providence, Rhode Island on March 27, 1908 and has resided most of her life in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

Miss Morrissey is a graduate of New Bedford High School. She received her college degree from Hyannis State Teachers College on Cape Cod. For 32 years Miss Morrissey taught elementary school in both the Fairhaven and New Bedford school systems. To hundreds of former pupils, she is known simply as "Aunt Reggie".

Miss Morrissey is a communicant of Saint James Catholic Church, is a member of New Bedford Women's Club, serving as the Chairman of Publicity, a member of the Executive Board, and the Committee for the Blind. She is a member of the Catholic Women's Club, the Saint James Women's Club, and the Saint James Senior Citizen's club. Miss Morrissey worked for many years on the Greater New Bedford Concert Series.

Throughout her life, Miss Morrissey has been an inspiration to her students, her community, and her large extended family. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Miss Morrissey a very Happy Birthday, and congratulate her on her first 90 years.

IN HONOR OF MR. CARL VAIL OF SOUTHOLD, LONG ISLAND, NY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, rare is the occasion when one person so defines the character of a place, but I stand here today reflecting on just such a man, Mr. Carl Vail, of Southold, Long Island, New York. A man of great dignity and integrity, someone who held dear his Long Island home and served his country with special distinction, Carl Vail was someone that made you feel proud to be an American. That is why it is with great sadness that I inform my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives of the passing of Carl Vail, at 102 years of age, on Thursday, March 12, 1998.

Born on August 12, 1895, Carl Vail lived his life as a reflection of the view that our national and familial legacy are gifts to nurture and pass on to our sons and daughters. The Vails are one of Long Island's and America's longest reigning families, having served and protected this land since the early 1700's. A Vail has fought in nearly every American conflict since the French and Indian War. Just last year, Carl discovered that he was a descendant of Christopher Vail who fought in the Revolutionary War. His own son Everett flew B-

24s in World War II and his seven grandsons served during the Vietnam conflict.

That tradition of service and patriotism ran deep in Carl Vail, who left the family's Southold farm to join the U.S. Army in December of 1917 and served his country in World War I. Carl was wounded in combat a month before the war ended after an enemy mustard-gas attack in France's Argonne Forest. Due to lost paperwork and a modest regard for his own heroic service to our country, Carl did not receive his Purple Heart until 1982. Until he passed away, Carl Vail was one of two dozen surviving World War I veterans living in Suffolk County.

After courageously serving his country, Carl returned to Southold, where he and his brother started a Hupmobile franchise, the beginning of an automobile sales business that lasted nearly 70 years. Generations of East Enders purchased their cars from Vail Brothers in Southold, Vail Motors in Riverhead and Seavale Motors in Southampton, dealerships that sold 20 different makes of cars, from Packards to Hudsons to Model T Fords.

I am proud to have come to know Carl during my service as a Member of the Congress representing Brookhaven, Smithtown and the five East End towns of Suffolk County. Born and raised in the same East End community, I can tell you that Carl Vail was the epitome of Eastern Long Island: friendly, proud, independent-minded and loyal to the core of this place to which the Vail family was such an integral part.

Carl Vail was a spirited man who cared about our community and participated in it to the last hours of his 102 years. May God bless and keep him. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him and all who so dearly love the East End.

[From Newsday, Mar. 17, 1998]

CARL VAIL, WWI VETERAN, DIES

(By George DeWan)

The Vail family name is one of Long Island's oldest, and a Vail has fought in most of America's wars going back to the French and Indian War in the mid-1700s.

On Thursday, Carl Vail of Southold, who was gassed as an infantryman in France in World War I and was one of about two dozen surviving World War I veterans in Suffolk County, died at 102. He passed away at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Northport after an eight-month illness.

Vail was best known on the East End for the automobile dealerships he founded: Vail Brothers Inc. in Southold, Vail Motor Corp. in Riverhead and Seavale Motors in Southampton. He had sold 20 makes of cars—including Packard, Willys, Nash, Hudson, Maxwell and Model T Ford—and became one of the top dealers in eastern Suffolk.

Born in Peconic on Aug. 12, 1895, Vail was 22 when he was drafted in 1917. He was a farmer at the time, but was in love with the water. "I wanted to get in the Navy," he said in an interview with Newsday last year. "They said they'd take me only as a ship's cook." He didn't want to be a cook, so he went to the draft board in December, 1917.

Vail was a member of the Army's 77th, known as the Rainbow Division, which trained at Camp Upton in Brookhaven. He was hospitalized after an enemy mustard-gas attack in France's Argonne Forest in early October, 1918, a month before the war ended. After a number of governmental paperwork

snafus, he was awarded the Purple Heart in 1982.

"My son, Everett, was a B-24 pilot in World War II," he has said. "He did 35 missions over Germany, and came home without a scratch. During the Vietnam War, I had seven grandsons in the service." Vail learned only last year that he was a descendant of Revolutionary War soldier Christopher Vail.

Vail first learned to drive in a 1905 Pierce Arrow, and cars became a hobby, then a business. In 1919, he and his brother got a Hupmobile franchise, the beginning of an automobile sales business that grew and grew, lasting until 1983, when he retired at 88.

"In '27 I bought an acre of potato land for \$8,000," he said. "We built a garage, and I built up a \$100,000 business in a little town."

"When World II started, most car dealers went out of business," Vail's grandson, Carl III, said yesterday. "He went out and bought a lot of cars. He once told me he was either going to go bankrupt or make a lot of money. After the war, he had a lot of cars, and he made a lot of money."

Vail helped found chapters of the American Legion in Mattituck and Southold. He was a life member of Eastern Long Island Hospital, a member of the Southold Universalist Church, the Southold Rotary Club and the East End Surf and Fishing Club.

Vail is survived by three children: Mary Hart of Southold, Virginia Bard of New York City and C. Everett Vail of Malabar, Fla.

Cremation was private. A memorial service will be held 3 p.m. Sunday, May 3, at the Universalist Church in Southold.

IN RECOGNITION OF BOOKS FOR KIDS

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a very special program underway in my district, Books For Kids.

Now entering its fourth year, Books for Kids aims to collect 70,000 new or nearly new books for children ages 2-12 who have never owned a book of their own or who cannot afford to buy one.

As stated by Dr. Elizabeth Cappella, a confunder of Books for Kids, this program was established to help those children who can benefit the most by developing an early love of reading. That early love of reading can help them gain a major foundation for successful learning and living.

The Books for Kids drive has grown from an idea initiated in 1995 with the cooperation of The Buffalo News, United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, the Junior League of Buffalo, Inc., Buffalo State College's Project Flight and the 30th Congressional District to a successful community wide effort to promote literacy.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join with the entire Western New York community, to announce the start of the 1998 Books for Kids drive. I encourage my colleagues to join in similar programs in their Congressional Districts and strive to provide Books for Kids.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, next week this body will consider campaign finance reform. After a year and a half of work on this issue, by myself and many other members of Congress, I am hopeful that the result of our work is a meaningful bill that gets the big money out of the electoral process. I am afraid, however, that we may not see true reform.

An editorial in Saturday's New York Times may have foreshadowed the result of next week. "In order to quell a rebellion by Democrats and reform-minded Republicans, House Speaker Newt Gingrich promised that there would be a vote by the end of March on campaign finance reform. Now that the deadline is approaching, Mr. Gingrich is working hard to make sure the vote is rigged to come out the way he wants."

Mr. Speaker, I hope the New York Times is wrong. I hope that next week you will respond to the call of the public to fix our broken campaign finance system. I hope that next week we will finally have a chance to deliver true reform of our system and restore the public's faith in our democracy. Mr. Speaker, please don't let the people of my district down.

VOLUNTEERISM BY THE MERLE REED UNIT OF DELANO, CALIFORNIA

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the work of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #124, the Merle Reed Unit of Delano, California, for their remarkable and outstanding community service in the 20th District of California on October 25, 1997, "Make a Difference" Day in Delano truly did make a substantive difference in the lives and well-being of the people of Delano. Thirty-five members of the Merle Reed Unit worked that day on seven different projects designed to benefit the community in a wide range of ways.

They volunteered during the local Red Ribbon Week, promoting drug free awareness throughout the community. They collected yard sale items worth approximately \$4,280 to sell at their "Spring Day", the proceeds of which will be donated to the Salvation Army and local church organizations. The Unit ran a canned food drive for the Holidays, recycled 583 pounds of bottles to benefit Veterans projects, and ran a comprehensive clean-up of the Auxiliary Post Hall, beautifying both the interior and exterior of the community center. Visits to the sick, local hospital volunteering and a joint luncheon for local Post Boys and Girls State participants rounded out an extremely beneficial day of service.

I commend the members of the Merle Reed Unit for their excellent commitment to bettering

the community and the lives of those who live in it through public service, and am proud to be able to make this statement to honor just one of the many outstanding examples of service done everyday throughout this nation. I hope their fellow citizens will recognize the great work that the American Legion Auxiliary Unit had done, and continues to do, for the community, and will follow their admirable example.

REMARKS OF HIS EMINENCE BERNARD CARDINAL LAW ON CUBA

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues the remarks of His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Law, Archbishop of Boston, on Friday, March 13, 1998. Cardinal Law participated as a speaker in a conference co-sponsored by the Inter-American Dialogue, the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, and the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies of Harvard University.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
TALK ON CUBA, MARCH 13, 1998, BY BERNARD CARDINAL LAW

In preparing these remarks, I reviewed my correspondence file from persons who accompanied me to Cuba for the Pope's visit. Our direct flight from Boston to Havana might have established a record in itself! Every letter expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate in a historic and profoundly moving event. Almost to a person there was the expressed desire to be of assistance to the Church in Cuba and to the Cuban people.

These pilgrims to Cuba included bishops, priests and sisters, and Catholic laity as well as Protestants and Jews. There were business leaders, bankers, doctors and a Health Care System President. There were heads of social service agencies and representatives of foundations. There were lawyers and judges, Congressmen, presidents of colleges, a law school dean and a university professor, and the editor of a national magazine. We were a wondrously diverse group, but we found unity in our conviction that the time is now for a change in U.S. policy towards Cuba.

Since returning from the Papal Visit, I have often been asked if I thought that change might now come to Cuba. The question misses the point that change has already come. An earlier barometer of change focused on the departure of Fidel Castro as the threshold for any substantive change. The events of the past year clearly demonstrate that that barometer simply does not work. The toothpaste is out of the tube, and Fidel Castro squeezed the tube.

Any blueprint for a change in policy which demands a change in leadership in another country is too rigid a starting point and depending on the means willing to be used to achieve that departure, could lack a moral claim. This is not to condone a dismal record on human rights. Religious freedom is certainly not yet fully developed in Cuba. The fact remains, however, that dramatic change has occurred within the past twelve months in the area of religious liberty. These changes could not have occurred without the

active approval of President Castro. He has been a promoter, not an obstacle to what is now happening in Cuba.

It is not the visit alone, stunning though it was, which chronicles change. Events leading up to the visit must also be acknowledged. Some in Cuba with whom I have spoken place great emphasis on the private audience accorded Fidel Castro by Pope John Paul II. One must also note the mixed commission of government and Church to plan for the Papal visit which marks a sea change in that relationship. The Church was able to engage in a door to door nationwide mission in preparation for the Pope's visit. Religious processions were allowed, as were some outside religious celebrations. The exclusion of the Church from the use of public media was, at least in a modest way, but nonetheless establishing a precedent, lifted with the pre-visit nationally televised address by the Archbishop of Havana, Jaime Cardinal Ortega.

Quite before the time of planning for the visit, the Church was allowed a new expression of social services through Caritas Cuba. While its work is still narrowly circumscribed, a principle of public, organized social service by the Catholic Church has been recognized. The backlog of visa requests by foreign clergy, religious and other Church workers has been broken as the number of visas has dramatically increased.

Change cannot be rooted in a precise paradigm for the future. If we are to measure change realistically, it must be measured against the past. The past that I know in terms of the Church in Cuba begins in 1984. Before then, there were confiscations of Church property, the closing of Catholic schools and other institutional works, the departure, and some would argue the forced exile, of hundreds of Church personnel. There were the labor camps which number among their alumni the present Cardinal Archbishop of Havana. Pervading and justifying all this was an official version of history, employing a method with which we have become all too sadly accustomed in some current trends in the U.S. academy. It is the application of deconstruction to the study of the past in a way which serves an ideological end.

In an earlier visit to Cuba, I objected to President Castro concerning the severe intimidation of the omnipresent Committees of the Revolution. These watchdogs of Marxist orthodoxy saw as dangerously subversive the baptism of a child or the visit of a priest or the regular attendance at Mass. Castro's response, replete with Church history according to Marx, made the claim that the state did allow for religious freedom. The State was powerless, in his explanation, to counter the strong anti-Church sentiment of the people borne of what he described as the Church's oppressive and sinful past.

For the past fourteen years, I have been in continual contact with the Church in Cuba. I was present in the Nunciature in Havana the first time Castro met with Cuban bishops. There were no more than three substantive encounters of this kind before the Pope's visit. During the past fourteen years there have been sporadic efforts on the part of the Cuban government to marginalize the Church by suggesting that the bishops were "counter revolutionary", which in our terms would mean unpatriotic and subversive.

Against that all too schematic background, focus on Havana, Sunday, January 25, 1998. The Plaza of the Revolution has a new face: a heroic-sized painting on the facade of the national library portrays Jesus in the familiar style of the Sacred Heart.

One million Cubans, with a sprinkling of foreign pilgrims, are ranged in front of the altar. Fidel Castro, in a business suit, is in the front row.

For me, one among the many moving moments stands out in a particularly vivid way. During the Havana Mass, the Holy Father commissioned representatives from various dioceses to go forth and present the message of the Church. He presented each with a Bible. The last person to approach the Pope was an older woman, quite frail, who was helped up the stairs by two young men. When she approached the Holy Father, she threw her arms around him. There they were, aging and frail, this elderly woman and the Pope, with their common witness to fidelity in the face of Communist oppression. As she was helped down the stairs, she was accompanied by the thunderous applause of thousands of Cubans.

I wondered what she thought. Must it not have been for her the unfolding of a miracle? What had it been for her these past years in a land governed by Marxism? What must have been her joy in this sea of Cubans, so many young and ecstatic in their celebration of faith? I could only think of Anna in the incident recorded by St. Luke. Anna was an old woman, a widow, who spent her days in prayer and fasting in the Temple. When Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to present him to God in the Temple, Anna came to the scene at that moment. St. Luke says "she gave thanks to God and talked about the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem."

It must be said that the Cuban government could not have been more obliging and welcoming. The Masses of the Holy Father were televised live nationally.

As the Holy Father left Jose Marti Airport on January 25th, he said that in our day "no nation can live in isolation. The Cuban people therefore cannot be denied the contacts with other peoples necessary for economic, social and cultural development, especially when the imposed isolation strikes the population indiscriminately, making it ever more difficult for the weakest to enjoy the bare essentials of decent living, things such as food, health and education. All can and should take practical steps to bring about changes in this regard."

These are important words of the Pope which have meaning not only for the Catholic faithful but for all women and men of good will, including those who exercise leadership in government. Current U.S. policy towards Cuba was set during the missile crisis. A few things have happened since then, however, including the tearing down of the Berlin Wall and the unraveling of Communist hegemony in Eastern Europe. The visit of the Holy Father to Cuba in January of this year is one of those defining events. A policy driven by events of an earlier time does not meet the challenge of new possibilities which the Holy Father's visit opens up.

One of the strongest impediments to new policy initiatives is the pressure of partisan politics. Is it but the musings of an unrealistic cleric to suggest than an earlier pattern of a bipartisan foreign policy could serve us well again? To that end, I propose the establishment of a bipartisan National Commission on U.S./Cuban relations. Such a Commission, perhaps Presidential or conceivably organized by a non-governmental body, would have as its charge the development of policy initiatives which could build on the changes already perceived in Cuba since the Pope's visit. The work of this Commission should be completed within three to six

months. It should not take longer than this because the Commission's work would be essentially a simple and straightforward task.

The Commission might be co-chaired by President Carter and President Bush or President Ford. It ought to include Senator Lugar, Representative Hamilton, a U.S. Bishop, Elizabeth Dole, head of the American Red Cross, two corporate CEO's, two prominent Cuban-Americans, someone from the field of medicine and someone representing the concerns of the media.

Since the Holy Father's visit, there has been the release of more than 400 prisoners. While one political prisoner is one too many, this direct response to the Holy Father's visit cannot be dismissed. So very much more needs to be done to broaden the scope of human rights in Cuba. However, I am convinced that the best way to do this is to move the starting point of U.S. Policy from the missile crisis to the Papal visit. The Holy Father has amply demonstrated that a policy of positive engagement can achieve far more change within Cuba than can the embargo.

Cardinal Ortega has commented on the so-called Helms-Burton Act that "any economic measure that aims to isolate a country and thus eliminates the possibility of development, thus threatening the survival of people is unacceptable."

It is impossible to reasonably support the embargo against Cuba while at the same time granting most favored Nation status to the People's Republic of China, and while moving into closer relations with Vietnam. Both of these nations have a deplorable record on human rights in general and on religious liberty specifically. If openness is thought to further freedom in those nations where change is not so evident, how is that a different standard is applied to Cuba where there is evident change?

We should not wait for the report of a bipartisan commission to introduce some measures which would ameliorate human suffering in Cuba, which would foster cultural, religious and other interchanges, and which would therefore, encourage the new attitude of openness and change within Cuba. It is time for the U.S. to respond positively to the change that is occurring in Cuba.

There is no moral justification for the current embargo. In terms of effectiveness as an agent of change it has proven to be a complete failure. The most egregious aspects of the embargo, namely the prohibition of sale of food and medicine, must be lifted immediately. The two bills currently in Congress which would do this should be immediately passed. What is needed in Cuba is the ability to purchase food and medicine in the U.S. A singular focus on facilitating charitable donations of food and medicine is patently inadequate.

There are certain things that can be done tomorrow by the President of the United States.

The President should agree to license direct, humanitarian flights to Cuba.

The President could take immediate action to ease remittance restrictions, increase visiting privileges, and expand opportunities for U.S. citizens, particularly Cuban Americans, to visit Cuba by restoring direct flights. The right to travel is a Constitutional right. It should not be violated for out dated political reasons.

The President could restate that he will continue suspending the international trade bans of Helms-Burton indefinitely. This would help the people of Cuba and it would

ease the concerns of our closet allies and trading partners.

The President should give serious critical attention to the legal opinion that concludes that the Executive Branch has the legal and constitutional right to grant a general license for medicines and for food. Such an action on the part of the President would, of course, effectively end the food and medicine embargo immediately.

The foreign policy initiatives of a President can be decisive. President Nixon went to China. President Carter brought Begin and Sadat to Camp David. President Reagan met Gorbachev in Iceland to ease nuclear tensions and President Bush followed up by reducing our nuclear weapons. President Clinton has the possibility of charting a new relationship between the United States and Cuba.

Let me end by recounting an incident during the Pope's visit. One of the pilgrims traveling with us took a walk along the waterfront. He was alone, it was raining, and the pavement was slippery. He stumbled and fell, with a resultant large cut in the head. Some passersby stopped their car and took him to the emergency room of the nearest hospital. The care he received was both professionally competent and compassionate. However, he was struck by the fact that the only medicine he could observe on the shelf in the treatment room was some alcohol. When the doctor arrived to stitch his wound, he first reached into a pocket of his white coat, removed a light bulb, and screwed it into the empty socket so that he could see more easily. It is not just a bulb that is missing. There is often a lack of power with devastating consequences, especially in surgery. The lack of medicines more quickly and cheaply attainable from the U.S. severely restricts the treatment that can be provided. Even more basically, the effects of the lack of sufficient food threaten the most vulnerable members of the population, the old and the young.

I would submit that the people of Cuba deserve better than that from us. I would submit that it adds no honor to our country to deprive a people of those necessities which should never be used as bargaining chips.

Change is occurring in Cuba. The question is, do we have the political will and moral courage to change?

HEALTH CARE CLAIMS GUIDANCE ACT

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleague from Massachusetts, Mr. DELAHUNT, in introducing the Health Care Claims Guidance Act. This legislation recognizes that, in our zeal to crack down on health care fraud and abuse, we must be careful not to throw our nets so wide that we ensnare honest providers who are making inadvertent billing mistakes. Ensuring that health care providers comply with all federal, state and local laws and regulations is, and always has been, a priority. At the same time, we should not carelessly paint all health care billing mistakes as billing fraud.

Many hospitals and other health care providers have received demand letters from the

offices of U.S. Attorneys asserting that the provider may be guilty of fraudulent billing and threatening the imposition of treble damages plus \$5,000 to \$10,000 per claim under the False Claims Act unless a quick settlement is reached. In some cases, demand letters have been sent based on alleged overbilling of less than \$100. In one case, a demand letter was sent to a hospital for overbilling in the amount of \$8.79 on a single claim over a one year period.

The most innocent of providers often feel forced to settle these claims instead of facing the prospect of an automatic \$10,000 fine for a small disputed amount. Even if a provider could clearly prove their innocence and show that these claims resulted from innocent clerical error, they would be likely to settle the case rather than incur large legal costs. The numbers speak for themselves. In fiscal year 1997, there were 4,010 federal civil health care fraud matters pending but only 89 cases resulted in the actual filing of a civil complaint. The large majority were settled.

Considering that providers are faced with a federal health care payment system of more than 1,700 pages of law and over 1,200 pages of regulations interpreting those laws, as well as thousands of additional pages of instruction, it is inevitable that human error will occur and that erroneous claims will be submitted. Every day, providers submit over 200,000 federal health care claims, adding up to 73 million claims per year. Considering the sheer volume and complexity of such claims, it is unreasonable to view every single billing mistake as fraud that merits the threat of the severest civil sanctions.

Mr. Speaker, the Health Care Claims Guidance Act provides a clear and simple way of distinguishing between those claims that are fraudulent and those claims that result from human error. The bill establishes a de minimis threshold requiring that the amount of damages in dispute be a material amount for an action brought under the False Claims Act. The de minimis threshold would be established by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. This requirement would protect against the use of the False Claims Act for small, erroneous billings which likely result from human error.

In addition, the legislation would provide safe harbors for reliance on government advice or written policies. There is no better example of fundamental unfairness than when a private party relies on government advice but is then threatened with court action for having done so. The Health Care Claims Guidance Act would also provide safe harbors for claims that are in substantial compliance with model compliance plans. Affirmative defenses would be established for these situations.

It is clearly in the public's interest for parties to work together to prevent health care billing mistakes from occurring. Providers should actively seek out trouble spots and quickly flag problems to government agencies. At the same time, in order to further the goal of compliance, federal agencies which administer federal health care programs should be encouraged to assist providers in the early detection and correction of practices which may result in a disputed claim. By encouraging such self-policing, providers and government

agencies will be able to work together to root out problems quickly.

It is clear that there are organizations and individuals engaging in efforts to defraud the federal government and we must use all of the tools at our disposal to pursue and severely punish such willful violators. In fact, during consideration of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act during the last Congress, the Crime Subcommittee worked on provisions to strengthen criminal health care fraud statutes. At the same time, there are honest providers doing their best to comply with complex health care rules and regulations who will make honest mistakes. The Health Care Claims Guidance Act provides clear guidance to ensure that the false claims of fraudulent actors are distinguished from the honest mistakes of innocent providers. I urge all my colleagues to support the Health Care Claims Guidance Act.

HONORING CANTOR BRUCE
WETZLER OF CONGREGATION
SHAAREY ZEDEK

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker. I wish to recognize the service of a very special individual, Cantor Bruce Wetzler of Congregation Shaarey Zedek in East Lansing. After 39 years, Cantor Wetzler will be retiring.

Cantor Wetzler graduated from the Hebrew High School of Congregation Tikvah Chadoshoh in New York City. He then attended Yeshivah University Cantorial Institute and the Jewish Theological Seminary, while studying music at both the New York School of Music and the Victor Stott Music Conservatory.

Since 1959, Cantor Wetzler has dedicated his life to Congregation Shaarey Zedek by serving as musical leader, teacher, community spokesperson, and spiritual advisory to people of all ages.

Most of all, through music, Cantor Wetzler has brought many people in East Lansing closer to God. Whether it is a weekly service or a personal experience like a wedding or a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, Cantor Wetzler has offered his voice through song to many people through the years. With his guidance, families and individuals have gained a better understanding of loss and a better appreciation of joy.

Cantor Wetzler is a leader in the greater Lansing community, but his special dedication to his Congregation and religious belief has been unparalleled. I wish him the very best in his future endeavors and I know he will relish the additional time with his wife Miriam, his two daughters, and his two grandchildren.

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 10

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, elsewhere in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD today, an amend-

ment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 10, the Financial Services Act of 1998, was filed by James Leach on behalf of both the Banking Committee and the Commerce Committee.

This legislation is the culmination of 20 years of work, and represents our best opportunity to enact meaningful financial modernization and consumer protection this term. We have tried to work on a bipartisan basis where possible, and have enjoyed extensive input and involvement from affected businesses and consumer groups throughout the process. While everyone had to make compromises to move this bill forward, we have achieved our fundamental goals of functional regulation, increased competition on a level playing field, no expansion of taxpayer subsidies, and enhanced consumer protection and opportunities.

WOODROW WILSON MEMORIAL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce legislation that would authorize full federal funding for the replacement of the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge.

As many of my colleagues know, the present bridge is in a serious state of disrepair and is one of the worst traffic bottlenecks in the metropolitan region. It is also the most troubled link on the east coast interstate corridor. Designed to carry 70,000 cars and trucks per day the bridge now carries 175,000 vehicles per day. By the year 2020, Federal Highway Administration estimates a 67 percent increase in vehicle traffic with up to 300,000 vehicles per day crossing the bridge. The future capacity needs alone should make the construction of a new crossing urgent.

Coupled with the capacity concerns, however, is the rapidly deteriorating condition of the present bridge. Federal and state highway engineers have determined that the useful life of the present bridge is less than six years. The underpinnings and supports of the bridge are literally crumbling into the Potomac River. The Federal Highway Administration has warned that at some point in the near future, it will need to restrict traffic on the bridge and would likely ban truck traffic for engineering and safety reasons.

While I would have favored replacing the present bridge with a tunnel, I recognize that there is not enough money in the federal highway program to support such a costly undertaking. There should, however, be sufficient funds for the Federal Government to meet its responsibility to pay for a replacement bridge. The bridge is owned by the Federal Government and will remain a federal liability until the funds are made available to replace it with a new bridge. At that time, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the District of Columbia and the State of Maryland are prepared to assume ownership and all future maintenance of this bridge through a multi-state authority.

I am deeply concerned that without a significant increase in the amount of federal funds

pledged to build a new bridge, no significant progress will be made. My proposal authorizes full federal funding for the replacement bridge, the connecting interchanges and approaches. It also seeks to address some of the concerns raised by the affected community that endure the current congestion and traffic and will suffer from a bridge construction project that may last up to nine years. The legislation, therefore also seeks to address their concerns by ensuring that there is:

(1) Progress on an additional southern Potomac River crossing, (2) a restriction on tolls, (3) a restriction on the width of the bridge, (4) a limitation on the total number of operational lanes, (5) a requirement that the final two lanes be reserved exclusively for High Occupancy Vehicle lanes and/or mass transit, and (6) an enforcement mechanism to ensure that both the State and Federal Governments honor the mitigation commitments outlined in the Record of Decision.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this legislation reflects a compromise on what must be done to get a replacement bridge built.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL REDMOND

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. REDMOND. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the floor, from Wednesday, March 11,

through Friday, March 13 because I was attending my daughter's graduation from the Defense Languages Institute in Monterey, California.

What follows is a list of the votes I missed and how I would have voted had I been here:
Roll call #43 (H. Res. 383)—yes.

Roll call #44 (amendment to H.R. 1432)—no.

Roll call #45 (amendment to H.R. 1432)—yes.

Roll call #46 (amendment to H.R. 1432)—no.

Roll call #47 (final passage of H.R. 1432)—yes.

Roll call #48 (H. Res. 384)—yes.

Roll call #49 (Journal)—yes.

Roll call #50 (H.R. 2883)—yes.

Roll call #51 (amendment to H.R. 992)—no.

Roll call #52 (final passage of H.R. 992)—yes.

TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS. FERDINAND AND CARRIE HATFIELD PEARSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ferdinand and Carrie Hatfield Pearson of Clarendon County, South Carolina, on the occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

The Pearsons were married on February 28, 1948, in Manning, South Carolina. Their marriage is the kind we all wish to experience, one which has trials and tribulations throughout the years and which grows even stronger and more committed with each one. The Pearson's marriage has produced six children: Jerome Pearson (deceased), Alfreda Pearson, Grace Pearson Waters, Cynthia Pearson Felder, Ferdinand Pearson, Jr., and Timothy Pearson.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Pearson are dedicated members of their community. Ferdinand Pearson is a very active and senior member in the political arena of Clarendon County, as well as with the National Association of Colored People (NAACP) and the American Legion Post. Mr. Pearson has proven to be a model citizen both at home and abroad. Carrie Hatfield Pearson is a senior member of the Eastern Stars, as well as the Jordan Community Club and several churches. Her priorities have indicated a wealth of inner strength and charisma. Ms. Pearson puts God first, and she supports her family's needs and hopes as she helps to guide them through the phases of life. She is always attentive to the ways in which the community can be improved, and she encourages the youth to strive for excellence and high self-esteem.

Please join me in warmly wishing Mr. and Mrs. Pearson a very happy fiftieth anniversary, and in congratulating them for the inspiring example which they set for all of us.